

30 March 1956

Mr. John T. Campbell, Head
BBC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading, Berks, England

Dear John:

You have no doubt by now become thoroughly familiar with the background of the British protest to Premier Nasir, from which the Egyptian press and radio have attempted to make capital, regarding "Voice of Arabs" broadcasts inciting violence. Among the press and radio reports are several which variously implicate an American or a Cyprus monitoring service as the source of material protested or as the source of material substantiating the Egyptian refutation.

The latter may have resulted from confusion by reporters, Egyptian officials, or the American Ambassador himself over some recordings of several "Voice of Arabs" transmissions which our Mediterranean Bureau supplied to the American Embassy, Cairo, in early March. This was in connection with an investigation of a similar incident somewhat the same type and of similarly embarrassing results. I hope that we are in no way to blame for the apparent lack of coordination between our respective Embassies and their home offices.

I am a bit concerned, however, over the possibility that Kyrenia monitoring may be the basis of British difficulty or embarrassment. While we have disproved this in the case of the 6 March 0630 broadcast, there are indications the questionable material spreads over several days. We are most anxious to investigate any dubious aspects of our product, and we trust that the BBC will register any dissatisfaction promptly and in detail.

In the event that Kyrenia is not involved, any information will be helpful which you are able to supply concerning monitoring which might be the basis for the Ambassador's protest.

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On the brighter side of the ledger, I am pleased to report that we anticipate early authorization to augment the Arabic staff at Kyrenia by two monitors. This was requested as a result of the recent meeting at Caversham. We shall keep your staff informed on our progress in this direction.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Chief, FBIS

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cc: Chief, London Bureau

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